SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1886. Designating our Streets and Houses.

The necessity of some system of naming streets and avenues is daily more apparent. Numbers of new streets are opened each year, upon which houses are built presumably for the use of strangers. How they or their friends are to be directed so as to find their places of residence is an enigma. Even old residents are not too familiar with the names of streets. For several streets to have the same name is quite common; while no system of house numbering has as yet been thought of. Some years ago, the principal streets in the township were placed on glass strips inside the gaslamps. These have pretty generally been destroyed by the fury of the ele ments or the evil machinations of the irrepressible small boy.

Wooden sign boards are much to be preferred to the glass ones, and should be placed everywhere within the township. Their necessity and value will be appreciated more and more highly with the increase of population, which is now assuming large porportions.

A system of house numbering is also among the growing wants of our village. Many streets are so closely built up as to make it difficult for strangers once introduced to find a house a second time.

Such a marking of streets and numbering of houses, as is suggested, might be cheaply, and yet welldone by the Township Committee. If they have not the requisite power to change the names of streets where these are dumaintain the numbers given them, it should be granted by legislative enact-

While the railroads are gathering popular applause by extensive improvements with reductions of fare the Express Companies have thought the time opportune for an advance of prices. On Monday last rates from New York were increased from 25 cents per hundred pounds to 40 Whether this is designed as a special tax for the protection of Bloomfield store-keepers or as a notification on the part of railroad monopolies that public opinion must and shall be suppressed we cannot say. It would seem, however, a doubtful way to increase business, and we would advise intending purchasers in the great cities to ascertain their wants in advance, and send their goods by slow freight. Such a course will be apt to admonish the lords of the rail that grinding the faces of consumers neither increases profits nor promotes the growth of population along their lines of railway.

Our enterprising postmaster, Mr. Horace Dodd, has again merited the gratitude of the people by securing additional postal facilities for their convenience. On December 8th a noonday mail was put in operation at his office, closing at 11:25 A. M., and arriving at 1:25 P. M. By this means letters delayed beyond the early morning hours will not be compelled to mail, and those delivered here in the early afternoon may still be answered the same day. We now have four mails each way per day; furnishing good facilities for business or family correspondence. Our people ought to support a postmaster who is continually looking after their interests.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

-One of the Boston Booksellers reports as phenomenal, the sale of Mrs. Deland's new volume of poems, "The Old Garden."

-The October number of the "Quarterly Review" has a remarkably intelligent and discriminating article on American poetry taking for its starting-point Mr. E. C. Stedman's recent volume "Poets of America." which it commends in strong terms.

-"The Saturday Review" speaks heartily of the new story "A Step Aside," saying: "As far as we are aware, Miss Dunning's name is new to English readers, but we hope it will not remain so long. She contrives to tell a very unobtrusive story with interest and charm.

-Hopkinson Smith's new holiday volume, "Well-Worn Roads," is emphatically commended by the "London Saturday Review. It pronounces the book "a notable and very welcome protest against the monopoly in elegant and comely production so long held by Paris publishers," and it finds Mr. Smith's descriptions equal to his

-The books of General Wallace have had a remarkable success, and particularly "Ben Hur," which is now in its one hundred and thirty-second thousand. This extraordinary romance was published in 1880, and not the least remarkable fact in connection with it is that the idea of writing it was suggested by a conversation the author had with the noted infidel, Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll. It is related that the two chanced to meet on a train, and settled down for a long talk. The drift of the conversation turned on matters religious, and Ingersoll made use of all his plausible arguments and sophistries for which he is so well known, with the idea of trying to win over his companion to his views. Up to this time General Wallace

had not accepted the Christian religion in any more than a general way, nor had he investigated its history or tried to ground himself in its faith. His conversation with Ingersoll set him to very seriously considering the matter, and he ultimately became firmly convinced of its truth. The result was "Ben Hur." At first this religlous romance was looked upon askance by the reading public, but its true worth and mportance soon came to be recognized, so that the book has been accepted as one of the most unique and popular contributions to the religion and letters of the age. The religious public have found it both an instructive and thrilling romance, and it has won the commendation of clergy and laity alike.

-Old silver has had its day, and pewto is taking its p ace. The connoisseurs are raving about the beauty of old pewter, and few dilettanti visit Holland without bringing over some trophy in way of an old pew. ter drinking-cup with which to ornament their sideboards or cabinets. Both Dutch and Early English pewter is greatly in request, and if it is embellished with the date so much the better. The shape of some of the old mugs and flagons is particularly quaint, and they look extremely well grouped with Dutch pottery or Doulton ware. But it is in the color of the pewter that the connoisseur finds his chief pleasure. Its beautiful dimpess has a high decorative value; it is not so hard as silver, and is often useful in producing an effect which could be given by no other metal. The gleaming softness of pewter when it shines from an oak recess surrounded by dull blue pottery is a thing which has to be seen to be understood.

Women's Work and Wages.

Simultaneously with the appearance of women as competitors in the industrial world, the complaint has been raised that they are discrimined against in regard to wages. The complaint, though based on an indubitable fact, is not truthfully phrased. Apart from the lingering prejudice of centuriesa prejudice small and constantly lessplicated, or to compel householders to ening-there is no such discrimination But it is true, nevertheless, that on the average women receive as wages not more than half what is paid to men for work that bears the same name. What can be done to remove this unhappy inequality? Nothing, until its real causes are more truthfully apprehended than they now are by the women themselves. The notion generally prevalent among them that there is an unwillingness on the part of employers to pay for women's labor at its market value is untrue, and ought at once to be cast aside. There is no sex in the products of labor, and the world is far too anxious to obtain a rare and valua ble thing to make any discrimination against it on account of the one who offers it. But women's work in its présent form is either not rare or not valuable, and for that reason alone it is poorly paid.

pends, therefore, on the efforts of both herself and her friends. She must branch out into wider ranges of work, take up occupations to which she has yet remained a stranger, and her friends can help her to a better training and a more intelligent and selfconfident view of her possibilities. These, indeed, seem to be the aims of such organizations as the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, and the fact that they thus recognize the real need of the hour makes their work correspondingly worthy and encouraging. If the courses of instruction now announced do not cover so many gainawait the dispatching of the afternoon | ful occupations as could be wished, it is doubtless owing to a lack of resources or the absence of a demand for this instruction on the part of the young women the union seeks to serve. But it is at least pleasan see that something is being done on the right lines. With such opportunities open to them women will have only themselves to blame if their wages continue so far below the average compensation

The raising of women's wages de-

Their wages fall below an adequate standard because of their own discrimination against a multitude of possible employments. They are flocking into a limited range of occupations, overcrowding a few channels of industry and putting down the market value of each other's labor. From a desire to preserve that delicacy of manner and habit associated with their old position in life, which is utterly impossible if they are to become genuine competitors, in the business world, they are choosing almost wholly those lines of work which are most nearly allied to the family order. Hence it is that in New York alone there are 360, 381 women engaged in what the census classes as personal services, who are offering for hire precisely what 1,670,988 women in family life are do ing for no wages at all. Of course the depressing effect of working in competition with a vast force of gratuitous labor is at once and terribly felt. Women's work will never command as high an average of remuneration as man's until she devotes herself to as great a variety of occupations. There are too many women applying for positions as teachers, dressmakers, type-

is their first great need. But this will not alone suffice. He work must be made more stable and efficient, and so more valuable. It is false to say that woman receives only

writers and clerks. A wider diversity

half the pay that man receives for the same work. It is not the same; it may be the same in name, but it is far different in quality. Speaking of her work as a whole and waiving exceptions, it is not based on the same long and thorough training; it is not prosecuted with the same singleness of heart and purpose. A lady teacher, for example, who takes up her work as an intermediary occupation between girlhood and wifehood and who is continuously looking forward, even though unconsciously, to the latter as her normal position, necessarily renders a ser vice that is at least 50 per cent less valuable than that of a man who enters the profession for life and puts into it the whole energy, ambition and purpose of his being. If women are to aspire to an industrial equality with man, they must root out all hopes and aims which he does not entertain; and if any woman is unwilling to make this sacrifice and repress the inclinations of her nature, she is thereby, and not from artificial discrimination, incapacitated for success in competitive labor .- Providence Journal.

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